

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 01395 130716Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 1395

STADIS//////////

FOR EUR/ARMITAGE AND EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, XH, UR, GW
SUBJECT: FRG CHANCELLOR REPORTEDLY CRITICIZES US
DECISION TO STRENGTHEN RFE/RL

1. THE ROME CORRESPONDENT OF RFE/RL FILED STORY MAY 9 WHICH
REPORTED THAT FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT HAD CRITICIZED
U.S. DECISION TO INCREASE STRENGTH OF RFE/RL SIGNAL IN
INFORMAL INTERVIEW WITH SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF TURIN
DAILY NEWSPAPER "STAMPA SERA." FULL TEXT OF RFE/RL
CORRESPONDENT'S STORY IS CARRIED IN PARA 2 OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ROME, MAY 9 (SPECIAL/ROBERTIELLO) -
THE INDEPENDENT TURIN DAILY STAMPA SERA TODAY QUOTED
WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT AS CRITICIZING
THE AMERICAN DECISION TO STRENGTHEN "THE PROPAGANDA
CENTERS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY."

IN A DISPATCH FROM ITS TURNI-BASED SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT CARLO SARTORI, WRITING FROM LONDON,
STAMPA SERA SAID SCHMIDT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MUNICH 01395 130716Z

STRENGTHENING OF RFE/RL COULD LEAD THE EAST TO INTENSIFY
JAMMING OF OTHER WESTERN BROADCASTERS.

THE 700-WORD DISPATCH, PRINTED ACROSS SIX COLUMNS
AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE ONE AND HEADED "THE RIGHTS OF MAN
DIVIDE BONN AND THE WHITE HOUSE," SAID SARTORI "MET WITH
THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR TWO WEEKS AGO IN ENGLAND DURING AN

INTERNATIONAL MEETING."

STAMPA SERA INDIRECTLY QUOTED SCHMIDT AS SAYING
PRESIDENT CARTER FAILED TO CONSULT EUROPE, INCLUDING THE
GERMANS, BEFORE LAUNCHING HIS CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. QUOTING SCHMIDT DIRECTLY,
STAMPA SERA ADDED:

" '(THIS IS) A CAMPAIGN,' SCHMIDT SAID, 'THAT
RISKS COMPROMISING ALL THE SMALL STEPS, CARRIED OUT WITH
MONK-LIKE PATIENCE, IN THE DIFFICULT RELATIONS BETWEEN
EAST AND WEST FROM THE HELSINKI ACCORDS TO TODAY.' "

SAYING THAT OTHER ASPECTS OF CURRENT AMERICAN FOREIGN
POLICY "WORRY" SCHMIDT, STAMPA SERA CONTINUED WITH A
DIRECT QUOTE FROM THE WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR:

" 'WHY WAS IT DECIDED TO STRENGTHEN THE PROPAGANDA
CENTERS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY? THE
SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS ARE VERY SENSITIVE IN THIS
FIELD. THEY COULD AT A CERTAIN POINT REACT IN A LIVELY
FASHION TO THIS INCREASED "INVASION.'" "

ASKED WHAT FORM THIS REACTION MIGHT TAKE, SCHMIDT
WAS QUOTED AS SAYING:

" 'BY OBSCURING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE RADIO AND TELEVISION
PROGRAMS THAT, FOR REASONS OF PROXIMITY, MANY
PEOPLES OF THE EAST RECEIVE FROM THE WEST, AND THAT,
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PAGE 03 MUNICH 01395 130716Z

I BELIEVE, ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE FREE CIRCULATION OF
IDEAS. SUFFICE IT TO THINK, IN THIS REGARD, THAT EVERY
EVENING ABOUT 11 MILLION EAST GERMANS FOLLOW OUR TV. ALL
THIS COULD BE IMPEDED. ' "

STAMPA SERA'S DISPATCH SAID THAT "AT THIS 'INFORMAL'
INTERVIEW WAS PRESENT IN AN EQUALLY INFORMAL CAPACITY"
A CARTER ADVISER NAMED DAVID AARON. THE DISPATCH MADE
NO REPEAT NO FURTHER REFERENCE TO RFE/RL. END TEXT.

3. RFE AND RL HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BROADCAST ABOVE STORY
IN ANY MANNER. TO KNOWLEDGE OF RFE/RL NEWSROOM, NEITHER
FRG NOR OTHER WESTERN PRDSS HAS PICKED UP STORY.

4. RFE/RL REPORTER IN ROME IS EXPERIENCED AND RELIABLE
JOURNALIST. CONGEN ASSUMES, THEREFORE, THAT HIS ACCOUNT
OF "STAMPA SERA" STORY IS ACCURATE. BETTS

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